

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 IO-10 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 CIEP-01 OMB-01

SAJ-01 EB-07 SS-15 /084 W

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O P 261655Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5565

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 30848

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT AO FR

SUBJECT: QUAI VIEWS ON ANGOLA

SUMMARY: QUAI INFORMATION ON ANGOLA MAINLY CONFIRMS
PRESS REPORTS. A REPORT ABOUT A LARGE FNLA UNIT OFFI-
CERED BY NORTH KOREANS LOCATED OPPOSITE BOMA IS OF CON-
SIDERABLE INTEREST, HOWEVER. THE FRENCH VICE CONSUL
WILL SOON LEAVE LUANDA. THE QUAI CONSIDERS AN MPLA
VICTORY AS FAR FROM ASSURED AND IS NEITHER OPTIMISTIC
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NOR PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME IN ANGOLA.

WHILE MAINTAINING A NEUTRAL STANCE, THE FRENCH APPARENTLY WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HELP TO THE FNLA/UNITA THROUGH ZAIRE AND SOUTH AFRICA. THE BIG QUESTION FOR THE FRENCH IS HOW FAR THE SOVIETS WILL GO IN THEIR RISKY ANGOLAN INTERVENTION. THE QUAI THINKS RECOGNITION OF THE FNLA/UNITA GOVERNMENT BY MOST AFRICAN STATES IS REMOTE. EMBASSY REQUESTS CERTAIN INFORMATION TO PASS TO THE QUAI. END SUMMARY.

1. WE DISCUSSED ANGOLA WITH CHAUVET OF QUAI AFRICAN BUREAU NOVEMBER 25. HE INDICATED THAT OFFICIAL REPORTS TO THE QUAI ON EVENTS THERE, WHICH COME CHIEFLY FROM THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN BRAZZAVILLE AND VICE CONSUL IN LUANDA, GENERALLY SIMPLY CONFIRM WIRE SERVICE INFORMATION ALREADY AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, ONE REPORT RECEIVED TEN DAYS AGO FROM BOTH BRAZZA AND LUANDA ACCORDING TO WHICH A "DIVISION" OF SOME 3000 FNLA SOLDIERS OFFICERED BY NORTH KOREANS WAS POISED ACROSS THE CONGO RIVER FROM THE ZAIRIAN TOWN OF BOMA FOR AN ATTACK ON CABINDA, INTRIGUES THE FRENCH. THE QUAI HAS HEARD NOTHING MORE ABOUT THESE TROOPS AND WONDERS, ASSUMING THE ORIGINAL REPORTS WERE CORRECT, WHETHER THE NORTH KOREANS, LIKE THE CHINESE, MAY HAVE DECIDED TO LOWER THEIR PROFILE OR, PERHAPS, HAVE CHANGED THEIR OBJECTIVE AND ARE AWAITING A PROPITIOUS MOMENT TO JOIN WITH OTHER FORCES IN A MARCH ON LUANDA. THE QUAI WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WE HAVE ON THIS.

2. CHAUVET SAID THE FRENCH VICE CONSUL WILL SHORTLY LEAVE LUANDA. THE QUAI HOPES TO RECEIVE PRESIDENTIAL AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW HIM BEFORE THE MPLA OBLIGES THE FRENCH TO DO SO, SINCE THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF RECOGNIZING THE MPLA GOVERNMENT. AS ALMOST ALL FRENCH CITIZENS HAVE LEFT ANGOLA AND GIVEN THE VICE CONSUL'S QUESTIONABLE LEGAL POSITION, THE QUAI VIEWS HIS DEPARTURE AS UNIMPORTANT.

3. CHAUVET SAID THE FRENCH PERCEIVE NOTHING WHICH INDICATES THE MPLA WILL NECESSARILY WIN, DESPITE MASSIVE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 30848

SOVIET BACKING, BECAUSE FNLA/UNITA SOURCES OF SUPPLY ARE MUCH CLOSER, MOST DETERMINATIVELY IN ZAIRE, AND IMPORTANTLY IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE QUAI THINKS PM VORSTER EXAGGERATES MPLA'S POTENTIAL FOR BEATING FNLA/UNITA.

4. THE PRESENT TENDENCY IN THE ELYSEE IS TO AVOID OPEN FRENCH SUPPORT FOR FNLA/UNITA, CHAUVET SAID, A POSITION BASED TO NO SMALL DEGREE ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.
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ERATIONS. "CONTINUED NEUTRALITY IS MORE CONVENIENT."

CHAUVET REMARKED THAT THE PRESENCE IN ANGOLA OF PANHARDS AND FRENCH MACHINE GUNS IS RELATIVELY EASY TO EXPLAIN AWAY AS HAVING BEEN PROCURED THROUGH THIRD PARTIES LIKE ZAIRE AND SOUTH AFRICA; THE QUAI CONTINUES TO HOPE TO BE ABLE TO AVOID MAKING ANY DECLARATION ON ANGOLA.

5. CHAUVET CLAIMED TO HAVE SCANT KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE ACTUALLY DOING IN ANGOLA, AS REGARDS BOTH MEN AND MATERIEL, AND TO BE IGNORANT OF THEIR FUTURE INTENTIONS. THE FRENCH ARE ALSO PUZZLED ABOUT THE SOURCE OF FRENCH-MADE LIGHT ARMS NOW BEING USED BY FNLA/UNITA, CHAUVET SAID, SINCE FRANCE HAS SOLD NONE TO ZAIRE OR SOUTH AFRICA IN RECENT YEARS. BUT THE BIG QUESTION, HE CONTINUED, IS HOW FAR THE SOVIETS WILL GO. THE MONEY COSTS, THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES OF AN AIR-LIFT AND THE DIPLOMATIC RISKS OF SOVIET INTERVENTION ARE HIGH. HE ASSUMED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S NOVEMBER 24 SPEECH WAS INTENDED AS A SIGNAL TO THE SOVIETS OF HOW TRULY DANGEROUS THEIR ACTION MIGHT BE.

6. ON THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT, CHAUVET THOUGHT THAT EVEN WERE THE OAU TO GIVE MEMBER STATES LIBERTY OF CHOICE, MODERATES LIKE IVORY COAST, SENEGAL AND UPPER VOLTA WOULD NOT FOLLOW GABON'S PROBABLE LEAD IN RECOGNIZING THE FNLA/UNITA GOVERNMENT. SUCH AFRICAN RECOGNITION ON A SIGNIFICANT SCALE WOULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED WERE THE MPLA TO BE ROUTED.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE INFORMATION WE MAY PASS TO THE QUAI CONCERNING THE REPORTED NORTH KOREAN-OFFICERED FNLA FORCE NEAR BOMA.
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